

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 1 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Forster (U.S. Patent No. 3,643,054; hereafter "Forster"). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forster in view of Halpern et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,165,554; hereafter "Halpern"). Claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

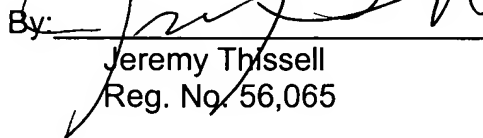
Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 3. At the suggestion of the Examiner, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the prior art of record and is, thus, allowable. Each of claims 3-7 is dependent on claim 1 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections and objection of the claims be withdrawn, and the application allowed.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Reply to Office Action, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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